



## Spring Updates January 2017

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### A Happy New Year to you all!

Welcome back to the Spring term and I hope you all had a magical Christmas, a very happy new year and a well-earned rest. It is great to see the children returning to school after the break, fresh and excited ready to begin their learning this term with characteristic gusto. The teachers and staff have really enjoyed hearing about all the fantastic experiences that the children have had over Christmas.

#### **Collective Worship**

Collective worship at St Mary's is far more than a statutory requirement. It is crucial to the spiritual life of our school and to our children's moral and spiritual development. Collective worship is an important part of our school's distinctive ethos.

In Catholic schools, pupil participation and engagement in worship are increasingly important criteria in the diocesan inspection of Catholic education, not least during the daily act of collective worship. Children at St Mary's have been leading their own class collective worships and would like to invite friends, family and Governors to join them, gathering together to reflect and pray. Class worships led by the children take place throughout the whole school on a Tuesday at 10.10am. Please check the newsletter for dates.

Birthday's within Reception and KS1 will be acknowledged and celebrated **within class time** and no longer separately as Birthday Assembly for family and friends to attend.

#### **Be-spirited Prayer and Reflection Weeks**

We encourage children to pray and reflect using different strategies and techniques. Always positively welcomed by our children are our Be-spirited sessions. Prayer stations are laid out in the hall so that children, family, friends and Governors are able to savour different approaches to prayer and reflection. For example, at one prayer station children are invited to try Bubble Prayers by thinking of anyone they know who may need Jesus to be with them. The children would then blow a bubble and say 'Jesus be with (and say the name of the person)'. They then watch silently as the bubble rises and vanishes being still and reflecting.

Prayer stations during Lent are based on the Stations of the Cross and include both reflections and prayers

Children in the past have found these weeks both positive and prayerful.

Lent: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Pentecost: 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017



## **Celebration Assembly**

We are changing the structure of our weekly celebration assembly. Celebration assembly will concentrate each week on celebrating and acknowledging the achievements of our children both in and out of school. **The start time for this will be 3pm.**

Classes will lead the assembly to celebrate important events in the Church's calendar such as Lent, Advent and the end of the School year. Please see dates below indicating when each class will be leading the Celebration Assembly. When a class leads an assembly the start time will be 2.45pm.

<b>CLASS ASSEMBLY</b>		
Date	Theme	Class
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	EPIPHANY	Y1
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb)	Y5
Half term		
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	CAFOD FAST DAY	Y3
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Mothering Sunday	Y4
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Palm Sunday	Reception
EASTER HOLIDAYS		
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Ascension Day	Y2
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	YEAR 6 LEAVERS ASSEMBLY	Y6

## **Termly Open Afternoons**

Each term classes will hold an open afternoon for family, friends and Governors to come into the school either to celebrate work with their children carried out as a project, for children to showcase the work they have carried out during a topic or to take part in an arts/craft afternoon with their child. Dates for this term's open afternoons will be published in the newsletter shortly.

## **Reporting and Parent's Evening**

Progress and development are matters of great concern to both parents/carers and teachers alike. We have formal Open Evenings early in the Autumn Term and midway through the Spring Term (dates as stated below). We are introducing a mid term report this half term that will be sent out prior to the Parent's evening providing an overview of progress made. There will be an opportunity to discuss this at the Parent's evening. End of Year Reports are sent out annually towards the end of the Summer Term and parents have the opportunity to come and discuss this report with the class teacher within an informal drop in session within the last week of term. Whilst these are all important occasions, we place a lot of emphasis on the school's open door policy whereby parents can visit the school whenever they feel there is a problem that they wish to discuss. We at St Mary's are more than happy to talk with parents/carers when the need arises, rather than wait for the next official open evening. Similarly, we would far rather invite parents to the school when we feel there is a problem than delay the discussions unnecessarily.



## **Mastery Approach to Maths**

Maths lessons will be developing this half term towards a Mastery approach. This approach is based on the Regional Maths Hub work which follows work carried out on a Shanghai Maths project and has been developed over the past 2 years. This project has shown to boost confidence, mathematical language and basic calculation skills. Part of this approach will mean that daily homework will be going home which will consolidate learning from the lesson that day and will consist of 4-5 questions that should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete. To ensure that all children are moving broadly in line with the National Curriculum the approach to complete an extra Maths lesson at the end of the day to ensure knowledge is embedded.

We would like to invite you to an information session on this “Mastery Approach to Maths” on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January. There will be 2 sessions for your convenience at 2.50pm or 5.00pm. Please confirm your attendance to either session on the slip attached.

We hope that you will support us in the positive changes we are making to both the learning and lives of our children at St Mary’s RC Primary School and look forward to welcoming you into school.

*Mrs K Whitehead*



# Dates for your diary

We try to publish dates as soon as we are practically able to ensure we give as much notice as possible for friends and family to support children at St Mary's. However we do reserve the right to change dates due to any unforeseen circumstances.

Date	Event
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Y1 Leading Celebration Assembly at 2.45pm
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	After School Clubs to start
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	Y4 & Y5 Swimming to start
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Information Session Mastery Approach to Maths
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Y6 Booster Sessions to start
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Y5 Leading Celebration Assembly at 2.45pm
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Mid Term Report sent home
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3 & Y6 Parent's Evening
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Valentines Disco
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Y4 & Y5 Parent's Evening
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	BREAK UP
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	BACK TO SCHOOL
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day followed by Film Night
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	School Photos
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Y6 Residential to East Barnby
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Y6 return from Residential
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3 lead Celebration Assembly at 2.45pm
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Y4 lead Celebration Assembly at 2.45pm
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Reception to lead Celebration Assembly
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Book Fair Arrives
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Be-Spirited Week
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	BREAK UP EASTER
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Teacher Training Day (not open to children)
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	SCHOOL OPEN TO PUPILS
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	First Holy Communion
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Y2 lead Celebration Assembly at 2.45pm
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	BREAK UP
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	BACK TO SCHOOL
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June – 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Be-Spirited Week
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day (Reserve day 13 <sup>th</sup> July)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	End of Year Reports to go home
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Annual Prize Giving
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Drop in open evening
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Y6 Leavers Assembly at 2.45pm
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	BREAK UP FOR SUMMER

